



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,421	01/20/2004	Chikuni Kawakami	0879-0425P	8089

2292 7590 12/18/2007  
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH  
PO BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER	
SUTHAR, RISHI S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2862	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/18/2007	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/759,421	Applicant(s) KAWAKAMI, CHIKUNI	
	Examiner Rishi Suthar	Art Unit 2862	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10, 13-23 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10, 21-23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 29 October 2007 has been entered.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 4 and 7 are objected to because of improper dependency. In independent claims 1 and 6, it is recited that the reflector surrounds only a single LED, while dependent claims 4 and 7 recite multiple LEDs. For this reason, the claims are incompatible with each other.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasawa et al. ("Fukasawa", US 6,638,780) in view of Chen (US 4,914,731) and Sommers (US 2003/0180037).

5. Fukasawa discloses primarily in Figs. 2 and 5 a lighting apparatus comprising an LED light source mounted on a circuit board (24), and a single reflector (21) having a substantially rectangular shape in plan perpendicular to a light emitting direction of the LED light source, the reflector being formed independently from the reflecting surface and provided above the reflecting surface so as to surround only a single LED light source (12) and said reflector having an opened rear thereof closed by the circuit board when mounted on the circuit board. Fukasawa does not expressly disclose a reflecting surface formed on the circuit board. Chen discloses a lighting apparatus comprising a reflecting surface (53) formed on a circuit board that is to be surrounded by a reflector. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a reflecting surface on the circuit board of Fukasawa as taught by Chen since the reflecting surface can increase the efficiency of the lighting apparatus by reflecting more light ahead. The combination of Fukasawa and Chen does not expressly teach the incorporation of the lighting apparatus into a camera as a flash device. It is conventional, as taught by Sommers, to use LEDs in cameras as flash devices. It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lighting apparatus of the combination of Fukasawa and Chen in a camera since LEDs can operate more efficiently than conventional flash tubes.

6. While Chen discloses the use of a round reflector surrounding a single LED (as opposed to the claim language reciting a rectangular reflector), it is noted that the rectangular shaped reflector is conventionally used in the art, as taught by Fukasawa. The addition of the reflecting surface on the circuit board can apply to any shape reflector that is placed above it, whether it is circular or rectangular, or any other shape. The shape of the reflector in this case therefore is not a patentably distinct feature.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Koay et al. ("Koay", US 2002/0047130).

8. The combination of Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers teach the invention as claimed above, except for the reflecting surface on the circuit board formed by gold plating. Koay teaches that gold plating on circuit boards is a conventional method in light sources (Koay; paragraph [0011]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use gold plating in the invention of Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers as taught by Koay as it is conventional for improving the light reflection properties.

9. Claims 3, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Kitano et al. ("Kitano", US 2003/0216151).

10. Regarding claim 3, the combination of Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers teach the invention as claimed above, but except that the LED is a surface mounted white LED. Kitano teaches a LED light source which can use a white colored chip LED as the light source (Par. [0047], lines 2-4). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the light source of the above combination to use a white colored surface-mounted chip LED as taught by Kitano since it is conventional to use white surface mounted LEDs in lighting devices.

11. Regarding claim 4, the combination of Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers teach the invention as claimed above except for red, green and blue LED light sources. Kitano teaches an LED light source where the LED light source is comprised of three types of LED light sources for emitting red light (22a), green light (23a), and blue light (24a), and the LED light source for emitting the light in each color is radially placed as shown in Fig. 3. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the light source of the above combination to use an RGB LED light source as taught by Kitano et al. so as to use the light source in order to provide a multi-color LED lighting display in a smaller space (Kitano et al., paragraph [0015]).

12. Claims 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Wu (US6,481,130).

13. The combination of Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers teach the invention as claimed above, except for the circuit board defining a mounting hole and the reflector is

provided with a claw extending directly from the reflector to engage the mounting hole. Wu teaches in Fig. 1B a claw (35) extending from a reflector and engaging a hole in the circuit board. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide claws to engage a hole in the circuit board in the invention of Fukasawa, Chen and Sommers as taught by Wu in order to provide a secure connection and proper alignment between the two components.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6 and 23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Telephone Numbers***

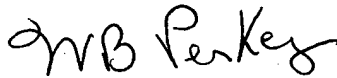
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rishi Suthar whose telephone number is 571-272-8456. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on 571-272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:  
10/759,421  
Art Unit: 2862

Page 7

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rishi Suthar  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2851

RS  
December 7, 2007

*William Perkey*  
*Primary Examiner*